

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 181835Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5120

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3329

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CS

SUBJECT: VESCO CASE: CITIZENSHIP ISSUE

REF: A) SAN JOSE 3324; B) SAN JOSE 1643; C) STATE 90195

1. IN LA NACION'S INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT VESCO, REPORTED REFTEL A, THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE IS QUOTED:

QUOTE: ARE YOU STILL AN AMERICAN CITIZEN?

NO.

THEN, COULD YOU TELL US WHAT NATIONALITY YOU HAVE TODAY?

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT IS IMPORTANT....

UNQUOTE.

2. VESCO MADE A SIMILAR STATEMENT IN A LOCAL TV INTERVIEW LAST MAY (SEE SAN JOSE 1812). WE HAVE, HOWEVER, NO OTHER EVIDENCE OF RENUNCIATION OR OF ANY OTHER POTENTIAL EXPATRIATING ACTION BY MR. VESCO, BEYOND PRESIDENT FIGUERES' STATEMENT TO THE AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 30 THAT VESCO HAD, ON THE ADVICE OF HIS LAWYERS, RENOUNCED HIS CITIZENSHIP BEFORE "TWO NOTARIES". (SEE SAN JOSE 1498.)

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3. WE ASSUME THAT DEPT.'S PREVIOUS GUIDANCE NOT TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE TO DEFINE VESCO'S CITIZENSHIP STATUS (REFTEL C) BUT RATHER TO ALLOW IT TO REMAIN AMBIGUOUS REMAINS

IN EFFECT, GIVEN THE VERIOUS LEGAL PROCEEDINGS
PENDING AGAINST HIM (REFTEL B).

4. SINCE THE EMBASSY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY
RECEIVE PUBLIC QUESTIONS REGARDING CITIZENSHIP
QUESTION IN VIEW OF THIS INTERVIEW, WE WOULD
URGENTLY APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE
AS TO WHAT WE MAY SAY. WE RECOMMEND THAT
WE SAY THAT THE EMBASSY HAS NO EVIDENCE OF
ANY VALID RENUNCIATION OF CITIZENSHIP OR
EXPATRIATING ACT; THERE HAS CERTAINLY BEEN
NO DETERMINATION BY THE USG THAT HE HAS
LOST CITIZENSHIP; AND IN THE ABSENCE THEREOF
IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT VESCO IS VIEWED
BY THE USG AS STILL HAVING US
CITIZENSHIP. PLEASE ADVISE. SINCE
AMBASSADOR WILL BE MEETING INFORMALLY WITH
PRESS WEDNESDAY EVENING, WOULD APPRECIATE
RESPONSE BY C.O.B. SEPTEMBER 19.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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